

TIMBER SALE CHECKLIST

FOREST AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION: YRSF, Paint Creek Unit, Compartment 1. East half of the NW ¼, Section 30, T97N, R03W, Allamakee County, Iowa.

DATE: 11/5/08

SCOPE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICE: Regeneration harvest on a ridgetop site containing mature and overmature red oak. A portion of this stand was commercially harvested in 1989, and again in 1999 due to the presence of active oak wilt on this ridge. Several attempts to eliminate oak wilt pockets have been made over the 30 year period, but oak wilt continues to be a problem in this high quality forest area. The operation will be part of an annual allowable harvest in accordance with the current management plan for YRSF.

ACRES: 6.2

GOAL/OBJECTIVES FOR THE TIMBER SALE: Objectives will be to reduce oak wilt inoculum, increase species diversity, and regenerate a forest with an oak component using seedling component which is now present, as well as supplemental tree planting with walnut and white oak.

ACCESS FOR TIMBER SALE: Can we access site through state lands or will an easement be needed? Is access seasonal? Does sale cross waterways and what will be done to minimize damage? Do we need to lay out a temporary road or skid trails? Where will the landing(s) be located?

Access will be entirely across state land. No waterways will be crossed. Access will only be allowed when the ground is firm or frozen. Landing can be accommodated along state owned access road.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Upon examination of the area, is the presence of any archeological resources suspected? Should inquiry be made of the Office of State Archeologist regarding presence of possible archeological resources? If not, why not?

No archaeological resources are suspected in this area. Review of the 1986 site report indicates no known archaeological sites in this area of the state forest.

FOREST HEALTH. What forest health issues are involved? How does the cultural practice affect them? Is the need for dead and dying trees and forest litter addressed and how?

Major forest health issue here is oak wilt. Oak wilt has been active on this ridge for many years and several attempts to reduce inoculum have been made in this area, with little apparent success. Red oak makes up over 70% of the mature trees in this stand, so it is highly susceptible to oak wilt. Increasing species diversity should help to reduce potential for mortality in the future. Several dead snags will be left on the site, and there are many more dead and broken trees in this area as well. Reduction of forest litter will be short term.

INVASIVE SPECIES. Presence of invasive plants and what will be done to minimize spread? No invasives were noted on this site.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES. Are any threatened or endangered species effected and if so, what steps will be taken to protect them?

This stand was checked by natural areas inventory personnel in spring and fall of '08. No T & E species were identified, but there is a red shouldered hawk nest site in this vicinity, approximately 1000 feet away. This hawk's nest is already located within 100 feet of a 1999 clearcut, so it is apparently not being affected by stand conversion.

PUBLIC SAFETY. Are issues of public safety involved? What steps are taken to address them?
Public safety should not be an issue during this operation. There are no recreational trails in the immediate area.

RECREATION. What are any short or long-term impacts on recreation in the harvest area, including hunting, skiing, hiking, etc.

Recreation should not be affected, except that the harvests may improve wildlife habitat, enhancing hunting opportunities in this area.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION. Does the cultural practice impact research and/or education? Do research institutions need to be contacted and if so, when was this done, who was contacted and what were the issues raised?

Research and education should not be affected, except to the extent that these harvest areas may provide outdoor classrooms for forestry field days and other interested groups.

REFORESTATION. How does this cultural practice affect regeneration on the area? Is natural or artificial regeneration needed and if so, what steps are taken to provide it?

Regeneration is already on the site in the form of 5 – 6000 red oak seedlings per acre. Many of these will be lost in the harvest operation, but many will remain to make up a good oak component in the following stand. Supplemental planting will be done using white oak and walnut.

UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS. Does this cultural practice take place within a designated natural area or within an area that should be considered a natural area? If so, what steps are taken to preserve the character of the area?

This site is not a unique natural area.

WATERSHED PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY. What watershed protection and water quality issues are involved and what steps are being taken?

Logging will only be allowed when the ground is firm or frozen, and all skid trails and landings will be repaired and seeded to provide cover and prevent erosion. The site contains slopes of about 10% maximum, which is well within the tolerance for equipment operation.

WILDLIFE. What wildlife issues are involved and how are they being addressed? Does the practice benefit wildlife, what species and what are the benefits? Were species of greatest conservation need identified on this site? If so, how will this activity impact them. Does this activity effect forest fragmentation? If so, how will this be addressed?

Wildlife habitat should be enhanced after this operation by providing for more early successional cover. This should enhance survival of upland birds, turkey, and deer by providing cover and nesting sites. Fragmentation will be temporary, as the site will be reforested. Species of special concern were not identified here.

Comments/Questions from the Public regarding this harvest:

Have all public comments from the public been received and addressed and are they attached to this document for public review?

No comments on these proposed forest management practices have been received at this time.

Reviewed by: (delete from website posting)

Wildlife Diversity Specialist _____

Plant Ecologist _____ John Pearson _____

Threatened and Endangered Species Specialist _____

Fisheries Biologist (If trout stream is on or adjacent to harvest site)

District/Area Forester (or designee) _____ Robert Honeywell _____

Section Supervisor _____ Jeff Goerndt _____